

July 24, 2007

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Glenda Wiles, Administrative Assistant
Ravalli County Commissioners Office
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

JUL 25 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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RE: Lost Horse Quarry Proposal

Dear Glenda:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to re-activate the quarry in Lost Horse Canyon. I feel that an active quarry in Lost Horse Canyon is inappropriate for many reasons.

First, the uses of the area have changed and increased greatly since the quarry was last active. In just the last ten years that I have been visiting the area I have seen many more people making use of the varied recreational opportunities that the canyon has to offer. Not to mention the increasing number of people who have made their homes in the canyon. I think that it is obvious that an active quarry in the area would decrease the quality of the experiences enjoyed by so many.

Second, as a rock climber I think that the quarry proposal has grossly underestimated the impact it would have on climbing as an important recreational use of the area. Spread only by word of mouth, the area's reputation for high quality cliffs and boulders draws climbers from throughout the region and beyond. This area is truly unique for it's concentration of high quality climbing routes. No other area in the Bitterroot, or in the region, has as many high quality climbing routes in one accessible location as Lost Horse. Only the lack of published information has kept more climbers from visiting this area. A soon to be published guide book will bring many more climbers to the area to enjoy the fine climbing. Quarry activity would surely limit access and compromise the safety of climbing activity, especially at the main cliff. To me and many others this is unacceptable.

Please consider these and many other reasons and encourage the Commissioners not to pursue the quarry proposal.

Thank You,



Patrick Knoll
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